15.0 Veterinary Care

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ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE

A research facility must establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care. [2.33, 3.110, Policy #3 and Policy #22]

Criteria

An adequate program of veterinary care must include, but not be limited to:

- availability of appropriate:
 - ▶ facilities [2.33(b)(1)]
 - ▶ personnel [2.33(b)(1)
 - equipment [2.33(b)(1)]
 - ▶ emergency, weekend, and holiday care [2.33(b)(2)]
- use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries [2.33(b)(2)]
- daily observation of the animals to assess their health by the attending veterinarian or other research facility personnel
 [2.33(b)(3)]
- a mechanism for direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian on problems of animal health, well-being and behavior [2.33(b)(3)]
- pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with established veterinary medical and nursing procedures, such as: [2.33(b)(5)]
 - wound care
 - drugs/dosages
 - activity level
- guidance for principal investigators and other personnel on: [2.33(b)(4)]
 - handling
 - immobilization
 - anesthesia
 - analgesia
 - tranquilization
 - ▶ euthanasia

- a preventive medical program, if necessary, for
 - > zoonotic disease prevention
 - dietary considerations
- a treatment/management plan for conditions requiring long term care, such as:
 - arthritis or lameness
 - stereotypic behaviors
 - under or over weight animals
 - foot care for elephants
- a method of euthanasia consistent with the current Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia
- proper storage of drugs, biologicals, fluids, and other medical supplies and equipment
- guidelines for performing necropsies which should include, but not be limited to:
 - all marine mammals
 - all elephants
 - at the discretion of the attending veterinarian
 - when a high death loss is occurring
 - when a significant number of unexplained deaths is occurring
 - when a strong chance exists that an undiagnosed infectious disease is present (with or without potential zoonoses)
 - when the circumstances around a death indicate that a violation of the AWA may have contributed to the death

Note: If circumstances warrant, you (the inspector), in consultation with your Supervisory Animal Care Specialist, may request a research facility to conduct necropsies on selected regulated animals.

Species Specific

Marine Mammals [3.110]

Isolation

Newly acquired marine mammals must be isolated from the

resident marine mammals, using the following requirements: [3.110(a)]

- animals with a known medical history must be isolated unless or until they can be reasonably determined by the attending veterinarian to be in good health
- animals with an unknown medical history must be isolated until they can be reasonably determined by the attending veterinarian to be in good health
- animals with communicable diseases must be treated and
 the disease remedied before they can be placed with the
 resident marine mammals. NOTE: The attending
 veterinarian may exempt an animal from this requirement if
 the potential benefits of a resident animal as a companion to
 the newly acquired animal outweigh the risks to the resident
 animal.

Holding Facilities

Holding facilities must be in place and available to meet the needs of marine mammals for: [3.110(b)]

- isolation
- separation
- medical treatment
- medical training

Marine mammals isolated or separated for nonmedical purposes must be held in enclosures that meet the minimum space requirements as outlined in Section 3.104 of the standards. (See Section 11.4 - Space Requirements) [3.110(b)]

Marine mammals isolated or separated for medical purposes may be held in enclosures that do **not** meet the minimum space requirements. [3.110(b)]

If an animal is to be held for medical purposes in an enclosure that does not meet the minimum space requirement for longer than 2 weeks, there must be: [3.110(b)]

- a notation in the animal's medical record
- a justification by the attending veterinarian in the medical record

After 2 weeks, if an animal is held for medical purposes in an enclosure that does not meet the minimum space requirement, there must be a justification: [3.110(b)]

- in writing
- written by the attending veterinarian
- renewed weekly

In natural lagoon or coastal enclosures where isolation cannot be accomplished, separation of newly acquired animals must be accomplished using separate enclosures that are situated within the facility to: [3.110(b)]

- prevent direct contact with resident animals
- minimize the risk of potential airborne and water cross-contamination between newly acquired and resident animals

A medical holding facility used for a marine mammal with an infectious or contagious disease must be: [3.110(c)]

- cleaned and sanitized as prescribed by the attending veterinarian
- cleaned and sanitized prior to use for a healthy animal

A marine mammal exposed to a contagious animal must be: [3.110(c)]

- evaluated by the attending veterinarian, and
- monitored and/or
- isolated for an appropriate time as determined by the attending veterinarian

All marine mammals must be: [3.110(f)]

- visually examined:
 - by the attending veterinarian
 - at least semiannually
- physically examined:
 - under the supervision of the attending veterinarian
 - when determined to be necessary by the attending veterinarian

All cetaceans and sirenians must be physically examined: [3.110(f)]

- by the attending veterinarian
- at least annually

NOTE: The facility may request an exemption to this requirement from APHIS-AC based on considerations related to the health and safety of the animal.

The physical examination of the cetaceans and sirenians must include, but is not limited to: [3.110(f)]

- hands-on physical examination
- hematology and blood chemistry
- other diagnostic tests as determined by the attending veterinarian

A complete necropsy must: [3.110(f)]

- be performed on all marine mammals that die in captivity
- be conducted by or under the supervision of the attending veterinarian
- include, but not be limited to:
 - histopathology sample
 - microbiological cultures
 - other tests as appropriate

Individual marine mammal health records and necropsy reports must be kept and maintained at the facility. (see Section 14.3 - Health Records) المراجع ويراجه والصابين والمحاط المتعاول

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ATTENDING VETERINARIAN

A research facility must have an attending veterinarian to provide adequate veterinary care to its animals.

[2.33, 3.110, Policy #3]

Criteria

A research facility must:

- employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements [2.33 (a)(1)]
- assure the attending veterinarian has the appropriate authority to: [2.33(a)(2)]
 - ensure adequate veterinary care
 - oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal husbandry
- communicate to the attending veterinarian timely and accurate information on the animal's health, well-being and behavior [2.33(b)(3)]

The attending veterinarian must be a voting member of the IACUC.

A research facility with more than one veterinarian may appoint to the IACUC another veterinarian with delegated program responsibility involving animals.

Responsibilities

The research facility **must** consult with the attending veterinarian to:

- determine the program of veterinary care
- develop a schedule of regular visits to the premises, if a part-time or consultant attending veterinarian
- develop guidelines for principal investigators and other personnel on all animal-related activities
- determine the method(s) of euthanasia for the animals which must be consistent with the current Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia

NOTE: Gunshot is **not** considered an acceptable method of *routine* euthanasia but may be used in

emergency or field situations where other more acceptable methods of euthanasia are not feasible.

The research facility **should** consult with the attending veterinarian to:

- determine adequacy of routine animal husbandry practices, such as:
 - hoof/foot care
 - grooming
 - cleaning and sanitation
 - dental care
- design the facility's surgical facilities
- determine the facility's procedure for surgeries on regulated animals which must require that:
 - survival surgeries be performed using aseptic technique. NOTE: A surgery is a survival surgery if the animal regains consciousness during or after the procedure.
 - major operative procedures for non-rodents be performed only in dedicated surgical facilities using aseptic technique
 - non-major operative procedures must be performed using aseptic technique
 - surgery on regulated rodents must be performed using aseptic technique
 - operative procedures conducted at field sites must be performed using aseptic technique
 - no eating, drinking or smoking be allowed in the surgery areas
 - food handling areas not be used for surgeries
- determine the research facility's policy on necropsies
- determine the facility's use of drugs, fluids and other medical supplies or equipment

- determine the facility's policy on the use of expired drugs, fluids and other medical material which must include either
 - 1. disposing of outdated drugs, fluids, and medical supplies or
 - separating and appropriately labeling outdated drugs, fluids and medical supplies from non-expired medical materials to be used in the following situations:
 - ▶ for non-regulated animals
 - ▶ for non-regulated activities
 - for acute terminal procedures on regulated animals with the exception of drugs to relieve pain or distress and emergency drugs

The attending veterinarian's approval and signature is required on the research facility's:

- program of veterinary care
- exercise plan for dogs
- environmental enhancement plan for nonhuman primates
- statements of exemptions from participation in the environmental enhancement plan for individual nonhuman primates
- temperature acclimation statement for animals housed in sheltered or outdoor facilities
- statements of exemptions to marine mammal housing requirements
- noncommercial diets for large felids

A veterinarian's signature is required on:

- temperature acclimation certificates for transport
- health certificates
- necropsy reports

NOTE: A research facility may use more than one veterinarian,

if necessary, to provide adequate veterinary care for all the species housed at the facility.

NOTE: If you, the inspector, have a concern with the instructions or guidance the research facility has received from the attending veterinarian, you should contact the Regional Office and discuss the concerns with a Supervisory Animal Care Specialist.

Species Specific

Dogs and Cats

The research facility must have the attending veterinarian's approval for:

- the exercise plan for dogs
- the outdoor housing for dogs/cats in temperatures below 50° F
- the relative humidity level in the indoor housing facility

Nonhuman Primates

The research facility must have the attending veterinarian's approval for:

- the acclimation status of nonhuman primates housed outdoors
- environmental enhancement plan
- exemptions from the environmental enhancement plan for individual nonhuman primates for medical reasons. Note: The IACUC may also exempt NHPs from the environmental enhancement plan for scientific reasons set forth in an approved research protocol.
- temperature range for nonhuman primates' housing facility
- the relative humidity level for nonhuman primates' housing facility
- the sanitation schedule of enclosure surfaces for scentmarking species

Marine Mammals

The research facility must have the attending veterinarian's approval for:

- the single housing of marine mammals
- the use of smaller than required enclosures for:
 - nonmedical training, breeding or holding
 - medical treatment and training
 - transfer purposes
- the provision of supplemental fresh water to a sick marine mammal
- a method of sanitizing enclosures with porous materials
- the application of insecticides and other similar chemical agents in the primary enclosure
- the food and feeding regimen for marine mammals in transit

Other Animals

The research facility must have the attending veterinarian's approval for the use of noncommercial diets for large felids.

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HEALTH RECORDS

Research facilities must maintain specific health records for marine mammals and should maintain health records for all regulated animals. [3.110, Policy #3, Policy #21]

Requirement

Health records are not specifically required by the AWA regulations, except for marine mammals. Therefore, a lack of health records or inadequacy of the health records may not be cited as a stand-alone violation, except for marine mammals.

The citation of inadequate veterinary care for a sick animal may include a reference to the lack or inadequacy of health records, if appropriate.

Health records, if maintained, should be:

- current
- legible
- sufficiently comprehensive to demonstrate the delivery of adequate veterinary care
- consistent with professional standards

The system of health records may be described in the written Program of Veterinary Care for those research facilities not employing a full time veterinarian.

Contents

Health records should include, but are not limited to:

- identity of the animal
- description of any:
 - illness
 - injury
 - distress
 - behavioral abnormality
- dates, details, and results (if appropriate) of all medicallyrelated:
 - observations
 - examinations
 - tests

- procedures, such as:
 - vaccinations
 - fecal examinations
 - radiographs
 - surgeries
 - necropsies
- treatment plans which should include:
 - diagnosis
 - prognosis, when appropriate
 - type of treatment
 - frequency of treatment
 - duration of treatment
 - criteria and/or schedule for re-evaluation by the attending veterinarian
 - allowable activity level for the animal
 - restriction, if any, for the animal
- treatment history which should include:
 - dates of all treatment
 - names of drugs or other medications given
 - dose & route
 - frequency
 - duration of treatment
- resolution of any noted problem(s)

Record-keeping

Health records may be kept in any format that the research facility chooses as long as all required information is readily available.

Group health records

Routine husbandry and preventive medical procedures performed on a group of animals may be recorded on herd-health type records.

Individual health records

Treatment of an individual animal should be on an entry specific for that animal.

Availability

Health records should be readily available for review.

Health records at a research facility may be held by:

- the attending veterinarian
- investigator(s)
- other designated employee(s)

NOTE: Health records must be readily available.

If health records are divided between personnel, the records should be:

- · appropriately cross-referenced
- complete

Health records should be held:

- for at least 1 year after the animal's disposition or death
- longer than 1 year as required by other applicable laws or policies

A copy of an animal's health records should accompany the animal when it is transferred to another research facility, person or location.

The transferred health record should contain:

- the animals's medical history
- information on any ongoing or chronic problems
- most current preventive medical procedures, such as:
 - vaccinations
 - deworming

Species Specific

Marine Mammals [3.110]

Individual marine mammal medical/health records must be kept and include the following information, at a minimum:

- animal identification/name [3.110(d)(1)]
- a physical description, such as: [3.110(d)(1)]
 - identifying markings
 - scars
- age [3.110(d)(1)]
- sex [3.110(d)(1)]

- physical examination information, including, but not limited to: [3.110(d)(2)]
 - length
 - weight
 - physical examination results by body system
 - b identification of all medical and physical problems
 - all diagnostic test results
 - proposed plan of action for medical/physical problems
 - documentation of treatment
- visual examination information

Individual animal medical/health records must be: [3.110(d)]

- kept at the facility where the marine mammal is housed
- available for APHIS inspection

A copy of the individual marine mammal's medical/health record must accompany the animal if it is transferred to another facility, including contract and satellite facilities. [3.110(e)]

Necropsy Reports [3.110(g)]

The preliminary necropsy report must: [3.110(g)(1)]

- be prepared by the veterinarian conducting the necropsy
- list all pathological lesions observed

The final necropsy report must include: [3.110(g)(1)]

- all gross findings
- all histopathology findings
- results of all laboratory tests performed
- a pathological diagnosis

Necropsy reports must be: [3.110(g)(2)]

- maintained at the marine mammal's home facility
- maintained at the facility where the marine mammal died, if different than the home facility
- kept for 3 years
- available for APHIS inspection

NECROPSY REQUIREMENTS

A research facility should perform necropsies as part of providing adequate veterinary care. [3.110, Policy #21 and Policy #22]

Criteria

A necropsy must be performed on all marine mammals [3.110]

It is strongly recommended but not required that a necropsy be performed on all elephants [Policy #21]

A necropsy should be performed: [Policy #22]

- at the discretion of the attending veterinarian
- when a high death loss is occurring
- when a significant number of unexplained deaths is occurring
- when a strong chance exists that an undiagnosed infectious disease is present (with or without potential zoonoses)
- when the circumstances around a death indicate that a violation of the AWA may have contributed to the death
- when warranted by circumstances

NOTE: If circumstances warrant, you (the inspector), in consultation with your SACS, may request a research facility to conduct necropsies on selected regulated animals. [Policy #22]

The necropsy should be conducted within an appropriate interval after the animal's death.

The animal's body should be kept at an appropriate refrigerated temperature to ensure meaningful necropsy results.

The necropsy must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian experienced with the species being necropsied.

The necropsy should include, but is not limited to:

- an internal and external systemic gross pathology examination
- appropriate microbiological cultures of lesions
- histopathology of lesions
- other indicated tests

All necropsy reports must be:

- signed and dated by the attending veterinarian, and
- maintained at the facility:
 - for at least one year, or
 - longer as required by APHIS
- be available for review by APHIS personnel

Species Specific

Marine Mammals [3.110]

A complete necropsy must: [3.110(f)]

- be performed on all marine mammals that die in captivity
- be conducted by or under the supervision of the attending veterinarian
- include, but not be limited to:
 - histopathology sample
 - microbiological cultures
 - other tests as appropriate

The preliminary necropsy report must: [3.110(g)(1)]

- be prepared by the veterinarian conducting the necropsy
- list all pathological lesions observed

The final necropsy report must include: [3.110(g)(1)]

- all gross findings
- all histopathological findings
- the results of all laboratory tests performed
- a pathological diagnosis

Necropsy reports must be: [3.110(g)(2)]

- maintained at the marine mammal's home facility
- maintained at the facility where the marine mammal died, if different than the home facility
- kept for 3 years
- available for APHIS inspection

VETERINARY CARE RECORDS

The research facility must maintain records relating to the veterinary care of the animals at the facility.

Required Records

A research facility must maintain the following veterinary care records for all regulated animals, when applicable:

- written Program of Veterinary Care for part-time or consulting attending veterinarian [2.33(a)(1)]
- attending veterinarian or IACUC approved exceptions/exemptions to the regulations/standards
- acclimation statements for transportation

Species Specific

Dogs & Cats

In addition to the required records listed above, the following veterinary care records are required for dogs and cats, when applicable:

- exercise plan for dogs [3.8]
- outdoor housing approval [3.4(a)]
- health certificate for transport [2.38(h)]

Nonhuman Primates

In addition to the required records listed above, the following veterinary care records are required for nonhuman primates, when applicable:

- environmental enhancement plan [3.81]
- outdoor housing approval [3.78(a)]
- health certificates for transport [2.38(h)]

Marine Mammals

In addition to the required records listed above, the following veterinary care records are required for marine mammals, when applicable:

- water quality records [3.106]
- individual marine mammal health records [3.110(d)]
- necropsy records [3.110(g)]
- health certificates for transport [3.112(a)]

Recommended Records

A research facility should maintain the following records as a part of good animal husbandry practices:

- health records [Policy #3]
- surgery records [2.33(b)(2)]
- necropsy records [2.33(b)(2), Policy 21 & Policy 22]
- large felids non-commercial diet approval by attending veterinarian [Policy #25]

NOTE: These records are not specifically required by the AWA regulations and standards, except for marine mammals. Therefore, a lack of any of these records or inadequacy of these records may not be cited as a stand-alone violation, except for marine mammals.

The citation of inadequate veterinary care for a sick animal may include a reference to the lack or inadequacy of veterinary care records, if appropriate.

Additional non-required records which may be helpful in assessing veterinary care include, but are not limited to:

- animal logs
- cage wash validation sheets
- medical records related to protocols
- room maintenance logs
- standards operating procedures, if available
- surgical records related to protocols
- record of attending veterinarian's visits (see sample signature sheet on page 15.6.6)

WRITTEN PROGRAM OF VETERINARY CARE

A research facility which has a part-time or consultant attending veterinarian must have a written Program of Veterinary Care. [2.33]

Requirements

The Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) must:

- be written: [2.33(a)(1)]
 - on the Animal Care Program of Veterinary Care for Research Facilities or Exhibitors/Dealers form (APHIS Form 7002) (see page 15.6.2), or
 - b in an equivalent format
- include regularly scheduled visits to the research facility [2.33(a)(1)]
- be reviewed annually and updated as needed for situations such as:
 - b the addition of a new species of animal
 - ▶ a new attending veterinarian
 - a change in the preventive medical program
- be initialed and dated by the attending veterinarian AND the research facility's Institutional Official or his/her designee:
 - whenever it is changed, or
 - reviewed without change

Note: The supplemental 'Program of Veterinary Care Instructions' sheet (page 15.6.6) may be used.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to USDA, ORM, Clearance Officer, Room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250. When replying refer to the OMB Number and Form Number in your letter.

The Animal Wellare Regulations, Title 9, Subchapter A, Part II, Subpart C. Section 2.33 and Subpart D, Section 2.40 requires a Program of Veterinary Care.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

ANIMAL CARE

APHIS FORM 7002

(JUN 92)

(Program of Veterinary Care for Research Facilities or Exhibitors/Dealers)

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VETERINARIA METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA E. ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TOP VETERINARY CARE Congenital Conditions Quarantine Conditions	LAME ANIMALS SHALI NS AND WILL BE CARI	BE PROVIDED WITH RIED OUT BY THE FO	N DISCUSSED IN THE FORMUL Exercise Plan (Dogs Proper Handling of E Venereal Diseases Pest Control and Pro	ATION OF THE PROGRAM OF Biologics	N ACCORDANCE

CHECK IF N/A	SECTION III.	WILD AND EXOTIC ANIMALS
A. VACCINATIONS - LIST THE DISEASES FOR WH applicable)	IICH VACCINATIONS ARE PE	RFORMED AND THE FREQUENCY OF VACCINATIONS (Enter NIA if not
CARNIVORES		
HOOFED STOCK		
PRIMATES		
ELEPHANTS		
MARINE MAMMALS		
OTHER (Specify)		
B. PARASITE CONTROL PROGRAM - DESCRIBE	THE FREQUENCY OF SAMPL	ING OR TREATMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING
ECTOPARASITES (Fleas, Ticks, Mites, Lice, Flies		
2. BLOOD PARASITES		
3. INTESTINAL PARASITES		
DESCRIBE PROVISIONS FOR EMERGENCY, WE DESCRIBE CAPTURE AND RESTRAINT METHOD		
	-(-/	
EUTHANASIA SICK, DISEASED, INJURED OR LAME ANIMALS THE AVMA RECOMMENDATIONS AND WILL BE		VETERINARY CARE OR EUTHANIZED. EUTHANASIA WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WI'LOWING:
VETERINARIAN	LICENSEE/REGISTRA	INT
2. METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA		
E. ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TOPICS - THE FOLLOWETERINARY CARE	OWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN	DISCUSSED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROGRAM OF
Pest Control and Product Safety Quarantine Procedures Zoonoses Other (Specify)		Environment Enhancement (Primates) Water Quality (Marine Mammals) Species-specific Behaviors Proper Storage and Handling of Drugs and Biologics Proper Use of Analgesics and Sedatives
F. LIST THE SPECIES SUBJECTED TO TB TEST	NG, AND THE FREQUENCY	OF SUCH TESTS

		VOICE-STATE OF THE STATE OF THE
NDICATE SPECIES		
ACCINATIONS - LIST THE DISEASES FOR Y	WHICH VACCINATIONS ARE PERFORMED AND THE FREQUENCY OF VACCINATIO	NS
Enter NA II NOT applicable)		
	SE THE FREQUENCY OF SAMPLING OR TREATMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING	
ECTOPARASITES (FLees, Ticks, Miles, Lice, Fl	lies)	
INTERNAL PARASITES (Hulminths, Coccidia,	Other)	
EMERGENCY CARE - DESCRIBE PROVISIO	ONS FOR EMERGENCY, WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY CARE	
		-
	*	
	£	
SICK DISEASED INJURED OR LAME ANIMA	ALS SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH VETERINARY CARE OR EUTHANIZED. EUTHANASIA	WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WIT
THE AVMA RECOMMENDATIONS AND WILL	L BE CARRIED OUT BY THE FOLLOWING.	
	the same appropriately as the first of the same and	
VETERINARIAN	LICENSEE/REGISTRANT	
VETERINARIAN	LICENSEE/REGISTRANT	
	LICENSEE/REGISTRANT .	
METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA		GRAM OF
METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA	LICENSEE/REGISTRANT OLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROC	GRAM OF
METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA - ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TOPICS - THE FO	OLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROC	GRAM OF
METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA		GRAM OF
METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA - ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TOPICS - THE FOUR VETERINARY CARE - Pasiourollosis	OLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROC	GRAM OF
METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TOPICS - THE FOR VETERINARY CARE Pastouroilosis Pododormalitis	OLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROC	FRAM OF
METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TOPICS - THE FOVETERINARY CARE Pastourollosis Pododormalitis Cannibalism	OLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROC Species Separation Malocclusion/Overgrown Incisors Pest Control and Product Salety	SRAM OF

APHIS FORM 7002 15.6.5



Program of Veterinary Care Instructions



- The enclosed Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) should be completed and signed by your attending veterinarian and <u>must</u> be signed by you.
- Keep the properly completed PVC as part of your records that will be reviewed by your USDA inspector.
- DO NOT send the completed PVC form to USDA Regional Office.
- You need a new PVC form only if you change your attending veterinarian.
- You need to update your PVC form and have it re-signed by your attending veterinarian any time you add a new species of animal to your facility or make any other changes in the veterinary care you are providing.
- This sheet may be used as a means to document your attending veterinarian's visit to your facility. If you choose to use it for that purpose, have your attending veterinarian sign and date this sheet during each visit to your facility. Your attending veterinarian must visit your facility at least once each year. This sheet should be kept with your PVC.

Veterinarian Signature	Date
Veterinarian Signature	Date

15.6.6